

Project Unit, San Luis Project Unit and Auburn-Folsom South Unit of the Central Valley Project in California; the Fryington-Arkansas Project in Colorado; the Garrison Unit of the Missouri River Basin Project in North Dakota; and the Colorado River Basin Project, which includes the Central Arizona Project.

Mr. McFarland also worked on 169 other pieces of legislation enacted into law. These included amendments to federal reclamation laws, compacts on interstate streams, authorization of the Saline Water Research Program, the Small Reclamation Projects Act, the Water Resources Planning Act, the Water Resources Research Act, and legislation relating to irrigation districts.

Mr. McFarland was born on March 25, 1915, in Georgia and grew up working on his family's farm. After earning a civil engineering degree at Georgia Tech, he worked for the Georgia State Highway Department before being called to active duty with the U.S. Army in 1941. He proudly served his country during World War II and many years after in the Officer Reserve Corps.

Mr. McFarland's military service is one of great honor and distinction. He was a member of the 551st Engineer Heavy Pontoon Battalion, initially assigned to General George Patton's Third Army. Under fire during Patton's rapid push across France into Germany, Mr. McFarland and his fellow soldiers courageously built several heavy pontoon bridges. In December 1944, the battalion was caught in the Battle of the Bulge, at which time the German army, holding everything east of the Rhine River, made a rapid breakthrough in an attempt to capture Antwerp. During the night of March 25, 1945, and part of the following day, Mr. McFarland's battalion completed the construction of a 1900-foot pontoon bridge across the swift-moving Rhine River, making it possible for the Allied Armies to cross and initiate the big push to end the war. As noted by Major General Inglis, Chief Engineer of the 21st Army Group, the Rhine River crossing was "... one of the great military accomplishments of this war."

Mr. McFarland, who was buried with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery, is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Barbara, of Sun City West, Arizona; daughter Margie and her husband Robert Collins of Albuquerque, New Mexico; daughter Carol and her husband Bob Leone of Edgcomb, Maine; son Sid, Jr., of Dayton, Ohio; and son Christopher and his wife Lauren of Austin, Texas. He also has five grandchildren: Jennifer Collins, Lindsay and Sara Leone, and Renan and Shea McFarland.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying final tribute to a great American.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK RYAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Patrick Ryan, a stalwart in education for the folks of southwest Michigan. Over the last 62 years, Pat has dedicated his life to the educating, mentoring, and training of local youth. Whether, as a teacher, counselor, principal, or athletic coach, Pat touched the

lives of every student who had the fortune of receiving his wisdom and tutelage.

Over his inspiring career the number of students, colleagues, and parents who benefited from Pat's devotion to education is immense and it would be an extremely difficult task to hear from all these folks. However, over the years a couple of themes have constantly been bountiful when speaking of Pat. For students, he was a leader who constantly taught that everyone has the chance and ability to make a difference—all one needs to do is always give 100 percent to any task, big or small. For his colleagues, he was the standard that all strived to reach. And for parents, he was the teacher who through example, demonstrated respect, kindness, and courtesy to their child.

Pat also shined and inspired in his life outside of the classroom. He and his wife have four children, but somehow over years found the time to take troubled children into their home and provide stability into their lives. He counseled women with troubled pregnancies, served on the Little League Board of Directors, and taught religious education. To list the accomplishments of a man like Pat is not an easy endeavor to undertake, and to be quite honest, not possible without feeling inadequate. He was a teacher who gave his all to the education and inspiration of his students, and was a man who dedicated his life to the betterment of his fellow citizen.

I can think of no better honor than to have a past student say that, "you were the reason why I chose to become an educator." Over the years Pat has received this testimonial time and time again, and I believe this is an exact statement of an amazing teacher and human being.

Mr. Speaker, Pat Ryan is simply "The Best."

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF WILLIAMS TOWNSHIP IN BAY COUNTY, MICHIGAN

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a community in my district that is celebrating an important milestone. This weekend, Williams Township in Bay County, Michigan will celebrate its 150th anniversary. Williams Township is a small community, but a warm welcoming one, and should stand as an example to us all.

In the fall of 1854, Williams Township began its history in the same way as many communities in Michigan and throughout the country. A small party of six men visited the area, which was then uninhabited wilderness. Charles Bradford, John Gaffney, William Spafford, Charles Fitch, George W. Smock, and Lyman Brainard found the land inviting, and returned to Flint, Michigan to purchase the land they would shortly settle. On November 18th, 1854, John Gaffney felled the first tree in the area. It was his birthday, and Williams Township's.

In 1855, the Township was organized as a part of Midland County. Two years later, Williams, along with Hampton Township succeeded in persuading the Michigan State Leg-

islature to combine them into the new Bay County. Though there was much dispute over whether Midland and Saginaw County residents could vote on approving the new county, the State Supreme Court allowed it to go forward in 1858, and on August 10th, the new Bay County held its first board meeting.

Those early settlers of Williams Township were primarily farmers, and their numbers gradually increased. By 1869, the population had grown significantly, and the Township was reduced to its present size of 36 square miles. Today, the population is about 4,500 strong, with another 2,000 or so in the City of Auburn, which split from the Township in 1948. And though the largest employer now is Dow Corning Corporation, which has its world headquarters and a specialty materials plant in the Township, farming and agriculture remain a vital foundation to the Township's economy.

Mr. Speaker, I said that Williams Township is a warm community, and I can personally attest to that. The Township was part of the area added to my district after the 2000 census, and I have visited several times in order to get to know my new constituents. I held a town hall meeting in Auburn in February of 2003. I was impressed by their thoughtful questions and touched by their welcome to me as their new Representative.

Later, in October, I went back to Bay City Western High School to speak to an American Government class and to have lunch at the Williams Township Senior Center. Again I was impressed by the residents of the Township, young and old. I was and continue to be very proud to represent this fine community in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Williams Township and its residents on their first 150 years as a community and in wishing them well in their next 150 years.

HONORING THE CONGREGATION OF EASTERN AVENUE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the congregation of Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, which celebrates the 125th anniversary of its formation this week.

Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church began on September 15, 1879, with a membership of about 80 families. The church building was located on the corner of East Street and Logan Street, and it has remained there for 125 years. The original structure of the church is still a part of the present day church building. Over the years, the church has undergone renovations and additions on four separate occasions, the most recent addition coming in 2000 with a major expansion of meeting room space, a large fellowship hall, a computer lab, and an industrial kitchen and pantry for a food service program for the neighborhood. Every addition has been undertaken with a view towards continuing the church's commitment to serve the surrounding community.

It is this history and emphasis on community service and fellowship that make me proud to